

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 20, 23 through 31, 34 through 37, and 39 through 42 are currently pending in the application.

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of claim 42 as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 11, 16 through 20, 23 through 31, 34 through 37, and 41 stand rejected.

Claims 12 through 15, 39, and 40 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation.

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action of September 27, 2004.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicant notes the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on November 27, 2004, and notes that a copy of the PTO-1449 was not returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein.

Claim Objections

Claim 23 is objected to as being of improper dependent form. Appropriate correction has been made for the correct claim dependency.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Ochiai et al. (U.S. Patent 5,643,831), in View of Any One of U.S. Patent 5,607,099 to Yeh et al., U.S. Patent 6,105,852 to Cordes et al., U.S. Patent 5,930,603 to Tsuji et al., U.S. Patent 6,293,456 to MacKay et al., and U.S. Patent 5,872,051 to Fallon et al.

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 11, 16 through 20, 23 through 31, 34 through 37, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai et al. (U.S. Patent 5,643,831) in view of any one of U.S. Patent 5,607,099 to Yeh et al., U.S. Patent 6,105,852 to

Cordes et al., U.S. Patent 5,930,603 to Tsuji et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,293,456 to MacKay et al., and U.S. Patent 5,872,051 to Fallon et al., for the reasons of record as described in paragraph 5 of the Office Action mailed 11 March 2004

Objections to Claims 12 through 15, 39, and 40/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 through 15, 39, and 40 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 18, and 29 to include the subject matter of objected to claim 12. Therefore, presently amended independent claims 1, 18, and 29 are allowable as well as the dependent claims respectively therefrom.

Applicant requests entry of this amendment for the following reasons:

The amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

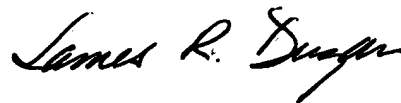
The amendment is timely filed.

The amendment does not require any further search or consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1 through 3, 6 through 20, 23 through 31, 34 through 37, and 39 through 41 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant requests the entry of this amendment, the allowance of claims 1 through 3, 6 through 20, 23 through 31, 34 through 37, and 39 through 41, and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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JRD/ps:dh

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